

Farmers' Champion

Successor to Indianola Champion

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WASHINGTON

O ripples of Potomac's stream,
Break gently where the tread
Of thousands press the hallowed sod
Above our greatest dead;
Mount Vernon, Freedom's dearest shrine
Guard well thy sacred trust,
Locked in thy loyal heart of hearts
Ye keep the Patriot's dust.

I see him glide among the huts
That dot the cheerless gorge—
The Joshua of a struggling band,
The Man of Valley Forge;
Where'er he goes his smile illumines
The shades that thickly lie,
And all who hear his words resolve
With him to do or die.

The pilgrim comes from lands enslaved,
Beyond the restless sea,
To meditate where sleeps the man
Who taught men to be free;
The glitter of the sword he drew;
Makes bright the world today,
And hands unborn will crown its hill
With laurel and with bay.

He needs no granite shaft to tell
Of glorious actions done;
His monument?—the freest land
That lies beneath the sun!
Today with swelling pride we seek
The banquet board once more,
And drink to him whose fame is far
Beyond Virginia's shore.

He is not thine, Mount Vernon, though
Upon thy sacred breast,
Wrapped in the mantle Glory weaves,
In peace he takes his rest;
The voice of Liberty proclaims:
"He is my honored son."
And Fame with lofty pride proclaims:
"The World's one Washington."

—T. C. Harbaugh

Progressive Farming

This Department is devoted to those methods that
are so wonderfully revolutionizing Agriculture

METHOD EMPLOYED IN EGYPT

Pulverization of Soil Enables Moisture
of Lower Levels to Rise Toward
the Surface.

(By G. C. DUDGEON, Director General
of Department of Agriculture of
Egypt.)

Dry farming, considered in the wide
sense, is preeminently associated with
the agriculture of Egypt from the ear-
liest recorded times. During the cen-
turies while the country has been with-
out a significant rainfall and has been
dependent upon the annual flood sup-
ply from the River Nile, the valley of
the same has been under continuous
cultivation, and has always been looked
upon as extremely productive in com-
parison even with those regions where
frequent rain has rendered cultivation
more easy and less precarious.

It is interesting to note that just
previous to the adoption of a system
of controlling and regulating the river
supply, that by careful treatment of
the land, most of the crops, for which
frequent waterings are now consid-
ered necessary during the whole period
of their growth, were successfully pro-
duced, while only receiving a heavy
soil saturation for two months pre-
vious to sowing and no more water
subsequently. According to this meth-
od the cotton fields were not watered
for from 127 to 127 days. It may be
remarked in passing that the yield per
acre under these conditions is said

to have been considerably higher than
the average of that obtained under the
present perennial system.

The essential principles which are
recommended for dry farming at the
present time are practically identical
with those which were employed for
cotton in the early days of the intro-
duction of commercial cotton growing
in Egypt. The soil in the first instance
was thoroughly plowed and aerated,
and was then tilled so that the par-
ticles were finely and loosely separated.
The pulverization of the soil enables
the water of the lower levels to rise
towards the surface by capillarity at
a much slower rate than it would do
were the particles more closely com-
pressed. The slower the progress of
the soil water towards the surface, the
slower also becomes the evaporation.

It was, without doubt, owing to the
careful system of cultivation followed,
that cotton was enabled to subsist for
the very long period mentioned above
without the application of water. The
basin system of cultivation is still
largely practiced in Upper Egypt, but
cotton is not grown as a basin crop.
The system is doubtless of the great-
est antiquity, and has only been im-
proved recently by the adjustment of
the water supply by the irrigation de-
partment to insure that as little as
possible of the basin land should be
left unwatered.

The "red water" of the Nile is run
into the basins which vary in size,
and the silt is permitted to be deposi-

ed upon the land, while the water it-
self drains away. The short flood
years the water which has drained
through one basin is now permitted to
reach the Nile before being used to
flood another; and it is better to give
water without silt to these lands than
to give no water at all.

By recently adopted methods the
basins are filled as early as possible
and are permitted to drain away for
from 20 to 40 days, so that the cultiva-
tor may have plenty of time to plant
his winter crops. As the water re-
cedes the seed is usually broadcasted
on the wet soil; if sown later upon a
drier surface, the plow or the hoe is
used to cover the seed. No further at-
tention is given to the crops until the
harvesting season, and the land dried
up to a considerable extent, often
cracking to a depth of two meters.
The effect upon the crop is usually
shown by the shriveled state of the
grain in the case of wheat and barley,
although on account of the richness of
the silt deposited upon the land, the
yield is generally fair. The modern
basin cultivation in Egypt is in op-
position to the principles recommended
for land in similar conditions.

Start Seeds in Eggshells.

Cucumber, squash and melon seeds,
and in fact many others, may be start-
ed in the house in any one of a dozen
ways. Try this one: Save the shells
of eggs by breaking off the small end
and removing the contents without
destroying the shell; fill the empty
shells with rich soil, and plant in each
shell two or three seeds. Keep them
in a warm and sunny place in the
house until ready to plant in the gar-
den, by which time the little plants
will be well started. Then break the
shell off, leaving intact the ball of
earth; set this in the place designated
for it, and the plants will start grow-
ing without any check whatever.
Empty strawberry boxes serve a simi-
lar purpose in the case of tomato and
cabbage plants; set box and all into
the ground, and the box will shortly
decay, leaving the plant undisturbed
and firmly established.

Mixture of Feeds Best.

It has been demonstrated that it is
best to feed layers both scratch food
and mash, the former being a mixture
of whole and cracked grains and the
latter a mixture of ground grains and
their by-products. Neither alone gives
the results which may be obtained
from the combination. As a general
rule the greatest egg production is
obtained when the mixtures are used
in the proportion of two pounds of
scratch feed to one pound of mash.
It is not possible always to regulate
this exactly, but as the birds eat the
scratch feed more readily the desired
result may be had by varying the
quantity of scratch feed according to
the amount of mash consumed. When
the amount of scratch feed given is
reduced the quantity of mash eaten
will be increased correspondingly.

Growing Currants.

Currants may be most relied on of
any small fruit for a crop, if kept free
from the currant worm. Early appli-
cation of hellebore powder will de-
stroy this pest, and a good crop is al-
most sure to follow, remaining on the
bunches from two to three weeks,
they give better opportunity to mar-
ket than most berries and generally
bring a good price.

Weeds on Farms.

One reason why many farmers do
not get rid of weeds on their farms
is because they try to cultivate too
much land. To keep weeds down
crops must be cultivated all the time,
and if there is more land than can be
covered as often as needs be the
weeds will get the better of one every
time.

Weeds for Butter Working.

Maple and ash are the best woods
for a butter worker, and they should
be seasoned for at least a year if
they are not artificially kiln dried.
But it is cheaper and less trouble and
just as satisfactory to buy a table but-
ter worker from a dairy supply house.

Food is Foundation.

Food and food production for the
dairy lies at the foundation of suc-
cessful dairying. Unless the founda-
tion is well laid the business will be
a failure.

Real Kind of Man.

A man who is worth calling a man
is not the man who tries to see how
much he can get, but the man whose
object is to see how much he can do
without.